

# CFMMEU

CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY  
MARITIME MINING & ENERGY UNION

OCTOBER  
2023

A REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM

CHRISTY CAIN



## EXCELLENT WA!

### EBA VICTORY FOR THE CFMEU SCAFFOLDERS

One of the major contractors in the WA Construction Industry, SRG Global have now signed a Scaffolders EBA with our Construction Division WA Branch.

Over two weeks of protected strike action, made the company come back to the table and State Secretary, Mick Buchan and the Branch delivered a fantastic outcome for the membership. It just shows workers that when you ALL stick together, you can't be beaten!

Mick and the Branch had been dealing with this mob for at least 6 months and it was only when the Protected Action was put on, and the scaffolders 100% decided they had a gutful of the company, that things really took a step up and changed.

### DP WORLD WHARFIES COMMENCE STRIKE ACTION AROUND THE COUNTRY!

A series of strike actions last week around Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fremantle has commenced. The action varied from 24hr to 48hrs in different ports.

DP World once again showed their vile commitment to the wharfies by trying to take conditions off them that they had already won in previous agreements! Giving absolutely nothing but trying to rip away conditions already fought for, is an absolute disgrace.

I know there was a lot of organisers, delegates and members involved in this, but it has now set a benchmark in the West for the whole industry to come on board.

The slogan is very clear brothers and sisters...

“

**“DARE TO STRUGGLE! DARE TO WIN!  
IF YOU DON'T FIGHT, YOU LOSE!”**

”

Well done again, it is such an excellent result for Mick and the team in the WA Branch.



VICTORY IN THE WEST!

This is a foreign multinational company that once again pay NO TAX in this country but made millions of tax-free dollars off the backs of our Australian workforce. What an absolute JOKE, but if I'm any guess, strikes will continue with this outfit until they come back to their senses.

## ORGANISE!

## ORGANISE!



VICTORIAN WHARF DISPUTE



*New T-Shirts In Stock!*



MENS



WOMENS

## KNOW YOUR HISTORY!

Do you ever ask yourself – how did we get smoko sheds on site? How did we win equal swings in the offshore? How did the Seafaring and Wharfies or the BLF/BWIU/FEDFA amalgamate? What were some of our biggest wins across construction and maritime over the years? Or, maybe, you want to know more about past officials, and why they chose to dedicate their working lives to the working-class struggle.

**As of late, we have lost some staunch comrades across our greater union. Be it Bob Setka who rode the Westgate Bridge down, Max Duggan who chose to go to gaol rather than crossing a picket line, or Leo McDonald, a staunch Painter and Docker and great trade unionist that rose for the fight whenever his union needed him.** These stories of working-class struggle are often lost or forgotten, and our younger workers miss the opportunity of learning from the people that did the hard yards to win the conditions that we all take for granted.

In the coming months, our office will be interviewing veterans and members across both divisions on their experiences at work. We want to hear the real stories from the people who fought the fight and won the wages and conditions that we all enjoy today.

These stories will be brought to you as part of our CFMEU/MUA flyer each month, so that our next generation, like you and me, can read the real blue-collar history that is often lost over the years.



WWF VOTE TO AMALGAMATE WITH SUA

Knowing your history makes you an even better delegate, shop steward and unionist!

These men and women may have retired from our industries, but never from the struggle! We are looking forward to sharing these stories with you in upcoming flyers.

Our office would like to make mention of Ralph Edwards and his podcast "Creatures of the Industry". Ralph has dedicated a lot of his time to telling stories like these on behalf of our construction division in Victoria, and we are looking forward to sharing some of his own stories with the CFMEU and MUA membership. You can listen to Creatures of the Industry through the 3CR website or on Spotify.

### STAY TUNED.

In Unity, **Emma Cain** – National Research & Policy Officer

# ORGANISE!

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VICTORY ON THE DOCKS!



MUA MEMBERS SERVICING OIL RIGS



PATRICKS EBA MEETING SYDNEY



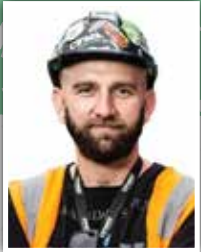
SIMO ADDRESSING MEMBERS GREEN SQUARE NSW



MICK MYLES ADDRESSING MEMBERS AT HACER DOCKLANDS



SIMO ADDRESSING MEMBERS LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL NSW



# YOUR SAY FOR YOUR EBA!

Brothers/Sisters, as of next year across construction, the waterfront, and Offshore, a lot of our agreements expire, and we need to start thinking about what our next agreement's will look like. We are in a good position to negotiate on behalf of the membership. With most Liberal governments out, a federal Labor government in, and the ABCC demolished, we as a union can put back in our EBA's what the Libs took out under the building code. If you are not aware of what had gone, let me refresh your memory...

There were no more ratios for apprentices, meaning a company did not have to hire and train young men and women to fill the next generations gap of trades. Lockdown weekends were demolished, you could even work Christmas day under the Libs code, shame if you had a family you wanted to spend time with. The right to strike even had major consequences and even holding a site meeting was illegal and could land you in jail. I'm sure we are all glad to see these out-of-date laws gone and now it's our time to fight for what is ours.

The last point that I touched on, the right to strike, the right to withdraw our labour when we see fit, is by far the most important tool we have because if we as workers down tools or walk off the waterfront, then who is going to do the work? Not the bosses in their Ivory Towers that's for sure. We as workers sell our labour at a cost and that cost can vary, it really depends on what you as the rank and file think your time is worth and as paid-up members of our great union, your voice is the most important of all. Never forget, if you pay your dues, we work for you.

Your union will be striking for the best wages and conditions we can get, the bosses have been asking for us to follow a Cost-of-Living increase for many years which have usually hovered around the 0.5 to 1 percent mark for wages per year, and we have never agreed to that, but maybe this time around we might be feeling a little bit generous and actually give the bosses something they want. When the Cost-of-Living increase

over the last year have been around the 10 percent mark, I'm sure we can accommodate a 15 percent wage increase per year because, after all, the bosses always wanted us to follow those increases, so they can eat humble pie and cop there right whack if they want to keep on singing the same old tune, but at the end of the day, it really comes down to what you think you are worth and are you willing to fight for it? That's the real question.

We need to understand that if it comes to it, we must withdraw our labour! As I've said many times before, without us then nothing happens. If one of us go to the boss and ask for a pay rise, they will just laugh, but if we all go to the boss, as a collective, as a Union, and demand a pay rise or he can get out there and do it all by himself, you watch them run scared, you watch them understand that they can't do this without you and watch them plead to get the outcome that you all truly deserve.

Never forget what you are truly worth, there is no such thing as unskilled labour, and you are all valued for the part you play. Be it on site, on the waterfront, or at Sea. You are the Union, not me or Christy, YOU, you are the lifeblood of this Union, and you always will be.

**"WE MOVE AS ONE, WE FIGHT AS ONE, AND WE DON'T STOP FIGHTING UNTILL WE'VE WON!!!"**

In Unity, **James Simpson (Simo)**



EBA24 WHATEVER IT TAKES!



SITE MEETING SYDNEY



WA BRANCH DELEGATES EBA MEETING



DP WORLD STRIKE SYDNEY

# “STOP THIS KILLER STONE! NOW!”

Members, a couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of going out onto building sites around Sydney and the message was very clear. WE are not copping anymore the use of engineered stone products in Australia that is killing our members.

Due to the high concentration of crystalline silica in engineered stone, workers who handle this common material are at a high risk of contracting the deadly lung disease silicosis. It's just NOT good enough!

The 2022 National Conference of the Maritime and Construction Division's moved unanimously to fight and ban this killer product.

WE will never stand by and watch our membership be given death sentences, and WE will do whatever it takes to make sure our membership goes home safely from their workplaces.



# BLUE COLLAR UNIONS TURN OUT TO REMEMBER THE WESTGATE BRIDGE DISASTER

Our deepest condolences go out to all the families and friends of loved ones who died on this terrible, horrific day 53 years ago. The Westgate Bridge collapse remains Australia's worst ever industrial accident.

Two years into construction of the bridge, at 11:50am on 15 October 1970, 35 construction workers were sadly killed and 18 injured. Commemorations have been held on 15 October every year since the collapse, and a Westgate Bridge Memorial Park is located under the bridge. Thanks once again to all the organisers of this remembrance day, for the excellent support in continuing to recognise this terrible tragedy.

## “MAY THESE WORKERS FOREVER REST IN PEACE”

“Members, once again, stay safe.”

In Unity,

**Christy Cain**  
CFMMEU  
National Secretary

